

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 086264
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 R

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NEA ONLY

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O 161642Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 086264

STADIS////////////////////
FOR CHARGE FROM KUX

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN DELEGATION AND OTHER MATTERS

1. SPOKE WITH PHIL TALBOT ABOUT JHAGAT'S QUERY, AND PHIL BELIEVES THAT THERE WOULD BE A GOOD RECEPTION FOR A TRIO OF TOP-DRAWER PEOPLE AT THIS TIME ALONG LINES JHAGAT SUGGESTS. PHIL FINDS A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN INTEREST IN INDIA AND WOULD BE WILLING TO HELP IN PROGRAMMING FOR ABOUT HALF DOZEN CITIES. HOWEVER, HE HAS SOME CAVEATS. THE PEOPLE SHOULD BE "ABSOLUTELY FIRST CLASS" AND THERE SHOULD BE NO LAST MINUTE SUBSTITUTES. HE MENTIONED GEORGE VERGHESE AS A POSSIBLE NEWSMAN. THE SOONER THEY GET HERE THE BETTER SINCE THE UNIVERSITIES CLOSE BY MID-MAY. ALSO, SINCE HE AND BOUTON, WHO WILL HAVE TO HELP ON PROGRAMMING, MAY BE IN INDIA IN LATE-MAY FOR THE SUBCOMMISSION MEETING, THEY NEED TO START PLANNING ALMOST IMMEDIATELY. IN OTHER WORDS, PHIL
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NEEDS WORD BACK IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. IN VIEW OF PHIL'S VIEWS, I WITHDRAW MY OWN SKEPTICAL APPRAISAL. PHIL SAYS IF THEY CAN'T COME SO SOON IT WOULD BE BETTER TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER LABOR DAY.

2. YOU MAY BE INTERESTED THAT INDIAN EMBASSY HERE IS AFLOAT WITH RUMORS THAT KEWAL SINGH IS LIKELY TO BE REPLACED BY

SOMEONE CLOSER TO NEW GOVERNMENT. THIS APPEARED IN THE NEW YORK INDIAN PRESS (PILOO MODI WAS NAMED AS POSSIBLE SUCCESSOR) BUT INDIANS SAY IT IS ALSO IN THE DELHI PRESS.

3. RE OUR TELECON, OUR RECORD ON THE POINT IS CONTAINED IN STATE 248546 OF OCTOBER 6. WE FELT PROBLEM HAD GONE AWAY BECAUSE OF SETHNA'S SUGGESTION. HOPE THIS WILL CLARIFY MATTERS. AS I RECALL FURTHER, VELLODI HIMSELF SAID THAT THIS WAS ONLY A THEORETICAL QUESTION SINCE THEY HAD NO PLANS. ANYWAY ENOUGH SAID ON THIS SIDE QUESTION. ON THE MAIN QUESTION, THE STATE OPTIONS PAPER ON TARAPUR IS NOW FORMALLY CIRCULATING FOR OFFICIAL COMMENT AND WE ARE SHOOTING TO HAVE RECOMMENDATIONS TO WHITE HOUSE MID-WEEK. PAPER IS SHORTENED VERSION OF EARLIER DRAFTS AND WORKING LEVEL AROUND TOWN IS GENERALLY FAMILIAR. OUR TECHNICAL MESSAGE ON THE FUEL REQUIREMENTS SCHEDULE IS BEING REFINED FURTHER AND WE WILL BE SENDING IT TO YOU APRIL 18.
CHRISTOPHER

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